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18. BREEDING BIOLOGY OF COMMON HOUSE LIZARD *HEMIDACTYLUS FLAVIVIRIDIS* RÜPELL IN MIZORAM, INDIA

Many species of gecko are commensal of man and seen on the walls inside buildings (Daniel 1983). In Mizoram, the common house lizard *Hemidactylus flaviviridis* Rüpell is found throughout the year, even during the winter in concrete houses, as the temperature in December and January does not drop significantly (Harit 1996). These lizards usually lay two (rarely one or three), eggs in a clutch, between April and May. Eggs are laid in crevices or in a secluded dark corner (Daniel 1983, McCann 1940).

These observations were made at Kolasib, Mizoram, which lies on a hilly terrain located midway between Aizawl and Silchar (Assam), in a window on the second storey of a house. A hole c. 5 cm deep, is visible from inside when the window is open. This window faces direct sunlight from the afternoon to the late evening. In 1995 and 1996, I saw two eggs laid inside the hole.

On June 23, 1997, at 0500 h when I opened the window before sunrise, I saw a lizard inside the hole. It was collected and kept in a glass jar covered with fine cloth. It laid two eggs on June 25, 1997. Later the lizard was released. One

egg hatched on September 1, 1997; the second egg did not hatch. The hatching took place 68 days after laying. The juvenile was provided with fruit flies inside the jar, but refused to feed and died on October 5, 1997, 35 days after hatching.

The incubation period has been previously reported as 54 days (McCann 1940) and 33 - 54 days (Daniel 1983).

Copulating pairs have been observed from February to November, while Sanyal and Prasad (1967) stated that mating occurs in March and April, generally during the morning and evening till 2200 h. The copulation at this locality was completed in 8 - 10 minutes, which confirms the observation of McCann (1940).

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